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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/055,100	01/22/2002	Jason Albert Reading	6311-019	9635
21890	7590	03/24/2006	EXAMINER	
PROSKAUER ROSE LLP PATENT DEPARTMENT 1585 BROADWAY NEW YORK, NY 10036-8299			TIV, BACKHEAN	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2151	

DATE MAILED: 03/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	10/055,100		READING ET AL.	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Backhean Tiv		2151	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 7/1/04.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>7/02</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Detailed Action

Claims 1-40 are pending.

Information Disclosure Statement

The IDS filed on 7/01/02 has been considered.

Claim Objections

Claims 1-15, are objected to because of the following informalities:

As per claims 1-15, recites, "perform said activity repeating", there should either be a comma or a semicolon after "activity", to read either, "perform said activity; repeating" or "perform said activity, repeating".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

As per claims 1-15, 28-40, recites in a), "retrieving from a workflow queue a workflow packet requiring one of said plurality of activities to be executed, said workflow packet being retrieved by one of said plurality of activity servers performing said one of said plurality of activities", it is unclear whether the workflow packet is part of the activities or the workflow packets are separate data to be executed.

As per claims 16-27, recites, "a workflow queue for storing a plurality of workflow packets including at least one of said plurality of activities", it is unclear whether the workflow queue includes at least one of said plurality of activities or whether the workflow packets includes at least one of said plurality of activities.

As per claims 1-15, 28-40, recites in e), "servers does not perform said activity", it is unclear to which activity is being forwarded to the workflow queue to be performed. In b, the activity is already executed, but in e, the claim recites the activity servers does not perform said activity. Does the applicant mean, "plurality of activity servers does not perform said next activity"?

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 6,308,163 issued to Du et al.(Du) in view of US Patent 5,522,070 issued to Sumimoto.

As per claims 1,16,28, Du teaches a method for processing a workflow, said workflow including a plurality of activities and workflow transition information(col.1, lines 21-45), the method comprising the steps of:

a)retrieving from a workflow queue a workflow packet requiring one of said plurality of activities to be executed, said workflow packet being retrieved by one of said activity server performing said one of said plurality of activities(col.1, lines 21-45, col.5, lines 28-43);

b)executing said activity, said activity being executed by said one of said activity server(col.1, lines 21-45, col.5, lines 28-43);

c)determining a next activity to be performed based on said workflow transition information(col.1, lines 21-45, col.11, lines 26-52);

d)executing said next activity if said one of said plurality of activity servers performs said next activity(col.1, lines 21-45, col.11, lines 26-52);

e) forwarding to said workflow queue said next activity if said one of said plurality of activity servers does not perform said activity(col.1, lines 21-45, Fig.5, 6); repeating steps a - e until all of said plurality of activities in said workflow are executed(col.1, lines 21-45).

Du however does not explicitly teach the use of workflow being processed by a plurality of activity servers, each of said plurality of activity servers performing at least one of said plurality of activities.

Sumimoto teaches the use of workflow being processed by a plurality of activity servers, each of said plurality of activity servers performing at least one of said plurality of activities(Fig.1, 13-20,col.6, lines 1-42).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Du to use multiple activity servers to proves a

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plurality of activities as taught by Sumimoto in order to distribute processes to computers in the network to obtain the result in a short period of time(Sumimoto, col.1, lines 40-42).

One ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine the teachings of Du and Sumimoto in order to provide a method to distribute processes to computers in the network to obtain the result in a short period of time(Sumimoto, col.1, lines 40-42).

As per claims 2, 17, 29, wherein said workflow packet includes a process state(Du, col.1, lines 21-45, Sumimoto, col.1, lines 40-42). Motivation to combine set forth in claim 1.

As per claims 3,30, further comprising a database for storing said transition information, said method further comprising the step of: retrieving said transition information from said database, said transition information being retrieved by all of said plurality of activity servers(Du, col.1, lines 21-45, Fig.1-11, col.10, lines 11-29).

As per claims 4,18,31, wherein the step of forwarding to said workflow queue includes the steps of persisting said workflow packet requiring said next activity and said next process state; and forwarding said workflow packet to said workflow queue for one of the plurality of activity servers providing said next activity(Du, col.1, lines 21-45, col.8, lines 51-65).

As per claims 5, 19,32, wherein at least one of said plurality of activity servers performs more than one of said plurality of activities(Sumimoto, Figs.1-20). Motivation to combine set forth in claim 1.

As per claims 6,20,33, wherein at least one of said plurality of activities is an automatic activity(Du, col.1, lines 21-45).

As per claims 7,21,34, wherein at least one of said plurality of activities is a manual activity for receiving an input from a user(Du, col.1, lines 21-45).

As per claims 8,22,35, wherein said manual activity manages a user interface with said user(Du, col.1, lines 21-45).

As per claims 9,23,36, wherein more than one of said plurality of activities is a manual activity and wherein said more than one of said plurality of activities are aggregated in one of said plurality of activity servers(Du, col.1, lines 21-45, Sumimoto, Figs.1-20). Motivation to combine set forth in claim 1.

As per claims 10,24,37, wherein said one of said plurality of activity servers interfaces with a desktop server for providing a user interface to a user(Du, col.1, lines 21-45, Sumimoto, Figs.1-20). Motivation to combine set forth in claim 1.

As per claims 11,25,38, wherein at least one of said plurality of activities is performed by more than one of said plurality of activity servers(Sumimoto, Figs.1-20). Motivation to combine set forth in claim 1.

As per claims 12,26,39, further comprising the step of: receiving an event notification requesting that said workflow be processed; and initiating said workflow(Du, col.5, lines 28-41).

As per claims 13, the method of claim 1, wherein said transition information includes a routing transition(Du, col.1, lines 21-45, col.4, line 64-col.5, line 62).

As per claim 14, the method of claim 13, further comprising the step of:
performing more than one of said plurality of activities and more than one routing
transition in a single transaction in one of said plurality of activity servers(Du, col.1, lines
21-45, Sumimoto, Figs.1-20,). Motivation to combine set forth in claim 1.

As per claims 15,27,40, wherein said transition information includes a route
number, a node number, a routing transition and a next node number(Du, col.1, lines
21-45, Fig.8-11, Sumimoto, Figs.1-20). Motivation to combine set forth in claim 1.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to
applicant's disclosure. See PTO-892.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the
examiner should be directed to Backhean Tiv whose telephone number is (571)272-
3941. The examiner can normally be reached on 9 A.M.-12 P.M. and 1 -6 P.M.
Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's
supervisor, Zarni Maung can be reached on (571) 272-3939. The fax phone number for
the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



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2151
9/10/06


ZARNI MAUNG

SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER